

AN EDITOR BIDS C.I.A. GIVE DATA ON PRESS

Wants Account of Ties, Including Disclosure of Names and Dates

WASHINGTON, Jan. 4 (UPI)—The managing editor of the Chicago Sun-Times called on the Central Intelligence Agency today to give a full account of all its past dealings with the news media, including reporters' names.

The editor, Stuart Loory, told a House intelligence subcommittee that the agency should "air completely the past relationships between the C.I.A. and the press, including revelation of names, dates, places and duties, in order to wipe the slate clean and create the conditions for a future free of suspicion."

Representative Les Aspin, Democrat of Wisconsin, the subcommittee chairman, told reporters: "I think to go back and really get the names of people who were involved would be terribly unfair, in the sense that what was going on in the 1950's was an entirely different attitude and very different approach."

"Now we have a very different perspective. We even have a different perspective on those times. But to know the names of people who were doing this in the 1950's would be applying 1978 standards to the 1950's and it can't be done. And it can't be done fairly."

Mr. Loory said that the subcommittee should attempt "to determine the extent to which the C.I.A., during the cold war, functioned as a propaganda machine aimed largely at affecting public opinion in the United States."

Morton Halperin, a former member of Henry A. Kissinger's National Security Council staff, also questioned the C.I.A.'s practice of planting news reports and other propaganda abroad.

Activities 'Blow Back'

Mr. Halperin, at one time a Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense, said that such propaganda activities "blow back" to the United States for American consumption.

"There is considerable evidence that the C.I.A. has in the past and continues to use its various disinformation techniques to influence what appears in the American press, either to indirectly influence events abroad or to affect events in the United States," he said.

Mr. Loory and Mr. Halperin agreed that it was acceptable for reporters to approach the agency for information or to compare notes and impressions or get briefings. But they said that representatives of the news media should not accept intelligence assignments, either paid or unpaid.